



FH  
[REDACTED]

**STATE OF WISCONSIN**  
**Division of Hearings and Appeals**

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In the Matter of

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

DECISION

CTI/148403

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**PRELIMINARY RECITALS**

Pursuant to a petition filed March 27, 2013, under Wis. Stat. §49.85(4), and Wis. Admin. Code §§HA 3.03(1) and (4), to review a decision by the Public Assistance Collection Unit to intercept the petitioner's income tax refund and apply it against a prior overpayment of child care benefits, a hearing was held on April 23, 2013, at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The issue for determination is whether petitioner's appeal was timely filed.

There appeared at that time and place the following persons:

**PARTIES IN INTEREST:**

Petitioner:

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Respondent:

Department of Children and Families  
201 East Washington Avenue  
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

By: Tamika Terrell

Milwaukee Early Care Administration - MECA  
Department of Children And Families  
1220 W. Vliet St. 2nd Floor, 200 East  
Milwaukee, WI 53205

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:**

Kelly Cochrane  
Division of Hearings and Appeals

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Petitioner (CARES # [REDACTED]) is a resident of Milwaukee County.
2. On February 15, 2013, the Public Assistance Collection Unit sent a written notice of negative action to the petitioner. Exhibit 1.

3. The petitioner filed a hearing request that was received by the Division of Hearings and Appeals on March 27, 2013.
4. The negative action in this case was a tax intercept for a child care overpayment.

### **DISCUSSION**

A hearing officer can only hear cases on the merits if there is jurisdiction to do so. There is no jurisdiction if a hearing request is untimely. An appeal of a negative action by the Department, or its agents, concerning a tax intercept must be filed within 30 days of the date of the action. See Wis. Stat. §§49.85(3)(b)2 and (4)(b). The petitioner's appeal was filed 40 days after the date of the action. Thus, it was untimely, and no jurisdiction exists for considering the merits of the case.

I add, assuming petitioner finds this decision unfair, that it is the long-standing position of the Division of Hearings & Appeals that the Division's hearing examiners lack the authority to render a decision on equitable arguments. See, Wisconsin Socialist Workers 1976 Campaign Committee v. McCann, 433 F.Supp. 540, 545 (E.D. Wis.1977). This office must limit its review to the law as set forth in statutes, federal regulations, and administrative code provisions.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

There is no jurisdiction as the appeal is untimely.

**THEREFORE, it is**

**ORDERED**

That the petition is dismissed.

### **REQUEST FOR A REHEARING**

This is a final administrative decision. If you think this decision is based on a serious mistake in the facts or the law, you may request a rehearing. You may also ask for a rehearing if you have found new evidence which would change the decision. Your request must explain what mistake the Administrative Law Judge made and why it is important or you must describe your new evidence and tell why you did not have it at your first hearing. If you do not explain these things, your request will have to be denied.

To ask for a rehearing, send a written request to the Division of Hearings and Appeals, P.O. Box 7875, Madison, WI 53707-7875. Send a copy of your request to the other people named in this decision as "PARTIES IN INTEREST." Your request for a rehearing must be received no later than 20 days after the date of the decision. Late requests cannot be granted.

The process for asking for a rehearing is in Wis. Stat. § 227.49. A copy of the statutes can be found at your local library or courthouse.

### **APPEAL TO COURT**

You may also appeal this decision to Circuit Court in the county where you live. Appeals must be served and filed with the appropriate court no more than 30 days after the date of this hearing decision (or 30 days after a denial of rehearing, if you ask for one).

For purposes of appeal to circuit court, the Respondent in this matter is the Department of Children and Families. After filing the appeal with the appropriate court, it must be served on the Secretary of that Department, either personally or by certified mail. The address of the Department is: 201 East

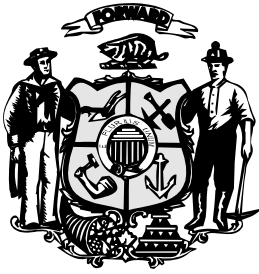
Washington Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin 53703. A copy should also be sent to the Division of Hearings and Appeals, 5005 University Avenue, Suite 201, Madison, WI 53705-5400.

The appeal must also be served on the other "PARTIES IN INTEREST" named in this decision. The process for appeals to the Circuit Court is in Wis. Stat. §§ 227.52 and 227.53.

Given under my hand at the City of Milwaukee,  
Wisconsin, this 2nd day of July, 2013

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\sKelly Cochrane  
Administrative Law Judge  
Division of Hearings and Appeals



**State of Wisconsin\DIVISION OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS**

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The preceding decision was sent to the following parties on July 2, 2013.

Milwaukee Early Care Administration - MECA  
Public Assistance Collection Unit